

to Scholten et al. and claims 2 and 3 were rejected in further view of U.S. Patent No. 2,750,596 to Amado. Claims 4, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12 were rejected as being unpatentable over Heimberg in view of Scholten et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,191,922 to Wade, claims 8 and 13 were rejected in further view of Amado and claim 10 was rejected in further view of U.S. Patent No. 3,422,879 to Ryan. Responsive thereto, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to further clarify the present invention and claims 14-20 have been added. Thus, claims 1-20 are pending.

Each of the independent claims of the present application, claims 1, 6 and 13, recites a **removable** magnetic sealing strip that is utilized to secure together opposing edges of adjacent panels of a window covering. Heimberg as applied by the Examiner in the above Office Action discloses a lining for draperies having fasteners 21 disposed along the side edges. The fasteners are U-shaped members with two arms such that they will grip anything which is inserted between the arms of the fastener -- not **removable** magnetic sealing strips as recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 13. The Examiner therefore relies upon Scholten et al. for the suggestion of using magnetic sealing strips to fasten the opposing edges of adjacent drapery panels. Scholten et al., however, discloses a plurality of separate magnetic strips 20 which are **embedded or sewn into** the fabric of the shade. *See*, Abstract, line 2; col. 2, lines 43-44. Accordingly, even making the combination suggested by the Examiner, one obtains a drapery panel having separate magnetic strips which are individually embedded or sewn within the material. There is no teaching or suggestion in Heimberg or in Scholten et al. to utilize **removable** magnetic sealing strips to secure together adjacent drapery panels, as in the present

invention. Likewise, neither Amado, Wade or Ryan provide the teaching for removable magnetic sealing strips which is lacking in the primary and secondary references.

Independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended to further emphasize, and claim 6 clearly recites, the removability of the magnetic sealing strips in the present invention. The removability of the magnetic sealing strips has certain advantages which would not be obtained utilizing embedded or sewn in magnets. For instance, repeated dry cleaning of draperies which included magnets in the hem may lead to degradation of the magnets as well as the material therearound due to the additional stress and weight resulting from the presence of the magnets. In addition, the packaging and storage of draperies including embedded magnets requires more space due to the folding constraints which the magnets present. Contrary thereto, the removable magnetic sealing strips of the present invention may be removed prior to any dry cleaning of the window covering in order to prolong the life of the magnetic strips. The window covering may also be folded in a compact package for shipment or storage and the magnetic sealing strips may be separately coiled in order to conserve space.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully contends that the present invention is not rendered obvious by Heimberg in view of Scholten et al. There is no teaching or suggestion in either Heimberg or in Scholten et al., or any of the cited art, to utilize removable magnetic sealing strips to secure together adjacent drapery panels, as recited in independent claims 1, 6 and 13. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 6 and 13 are in condition for allowance, as well as the claims depending therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable and in allowable condition. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Notice of Allowability now issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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